

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LENDING 01612 011512Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 A-01 CPR-01 NSCE-00 OPR-02
SY-05 USSS-00 PRS-01 SSO-00 /038 W
-----020400 011522Z /47
O 011428Z DEC 77
FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3730
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L L E N I N G R A D 1 6 1 2

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE, MRS. JOAN), UR
SUBJ: TRAVEL BY MRS. WALTER MONDALE TO LENINGRAD, DEC 7-8

REF: STATE 286543

1. WE ARE DELIGHTED AT OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE MRS. MONDALE
WHAT WILL BE VERY BRIEF GLIMPSE OF LENINGRAD, AND WE HOPE
THAT SHE WILL STAY WITH US AT THE RESIDENCE. LOCAL
OFFICIALS WELCOME THIS OCCASION TO LAY ON WHATEVER
PROGRAM MIGHT BE OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO HER.

2. HOUSING. IN ADDITION TO MRS. MONDALE, WE WOULD BE
PLEASED IF MRS. ABELL AND MRS. HIGGINS-BERGWALL WOULD
STAY WITH US AT THE RESIDENCE. TWO OF FIVE SECRET
SERVICE AGENTS CAN ALSO BE ACCOMMODATED IN SMALL
ADJOINING APARTMENT. WE WILL ARRANGE HOTEL ACCOMMODATION
FOR THE OTHER THREE AGENTS.

3. DECEMBER 7 ARRIVAL. SINCE WE UNDERSTAND THE PARTY
WILL HAVE A LIGHT SUPPER BEFORE DEPARTING HELSINKI,
WE SUGGEST SIMPLY AN EVENING SNACK, TEA, ETC., AFTER
ARRIVAL AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO CHAT ABOUT LENINGRAD IN THE
RESIDENCE, IF MRS. MONDALE NOT TOO TIRED.

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4. DECEMBER 8 SIGHTSEEING. PROPOSE 0930 OR 1000 A.M. DEPARTURE
FOR BRIEF TOUR OF CITY BY CAR (ADMIRALTY, ST. ISAACS
CATHEDRAL, PETER AND PAUL FORTRESS, ETC), INCLUDING
OPPORTUNITY FOR BRIEF WALK ALONG THE NEVA EMBANKMENT
AND PHOTOGRAPHY IF THERE IS INTEREST. FURTHER SIGHT-
SEEING COULD BE ARRANGED AFTER LUNCH. WHILE CATHERINE'S

PALACE AT PUSHKINO AND THE SUMMER PALACE AT PAVLOVSK ARE VERY WORTHWHILE, A VISIT OUT OF TOWN WOULD ALLOW LITTLE TIME FOR THE HERMITAGE.

5. HERMITAGE. MUSEUM OFFICIALS ASKED WHETHER MRS. MONDALE HAS ANY SPECIAL INTERESTS. THEY SUGGESTED THAT WE BEGIN WITH SCYTHIAN GOLD COLLECTION AND INCLUDE REMBRANDT AND IMPRESSIONISTS IN THE TOUR. THEY ARE ALSO PROUD, HOWEVER, OF THEIR SELDOM-SHOWN CENTRAL ASIAN GOLD COLLECTION, A SCYTHIAN MUMMY AND ARTIFACTS DISCOVERED IN SIBERIA, THEIR ORIENTAL ART, AND THEIR PERIOD FURNITURE. THEY PROPOSE A COFFEE-BREAK, PRESUMABLY WITH HERMITAGE DIRECTOR PETROVSKIY, DURING THE MORNING.

6. LUNCHEON. WE WOULD BE VERY PLEASED TO ARRANGE A LUNCHEON AT THE RESIDENCE FOR MRS. MONDALE, TO WHOM WE WOULD LOGICALLY INVITE A FEW LEADING OFFICIALS FROM THE CITY GOVERNMENT AND CULTURAL WORLD. THERE IS A RISK, OF COURSE, THAT ANY SUCH LUNCHEON WOULD DRAG ON, CUTTING INTO ANY AFTERNOON SIGHTSEEING. ALTERNATIVELY, WE CAN ARRANGE A LUNCHEON AT THE RESIDENCE FOR JUST MRS. MONDALE'S PARTY AND SELECTED CONSULATE STAFF, IF DESIRED. OR A LUNCHEON AT A RESTAURANT, WITH OR WITHOUT SOVIET GUESTS. IT IS ALWAYS POSSIBLE, OF COURSE, THAT THE CITY AUTHORITIES WILL DECIDE TO OFFER MRS. MONDALE A LUNCHEON; IF WE SENSE THAT SUCH AN INVITATION IS UNDER CONSIDERATION, SHOULD WE EN-CONFIDENTIAL

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COURAGE OR DISCOURAGE IT?

7. AFTERNOON. DEPENDING ON WHEN WE FINISH LUNCHEON, WE CAN ARRANGE (A) SIMPLY FOR MORE SIGHTSEEING BY CAR; (B) A TOUR OF SOME HISTORIC SITE, E.G., PETER AND PAUL FORTRESS; (C) A VISIT TO THE RUSSIAN MUSEUM WHICH HAS LENINGRAD'S FINEST COLLECTION OF ICONS AND RUSSIAN AND SOVIET ART; OR (D) A VISIT TO LENINGRAD'S LARGEST DEPARTMENT STORE, GOSTINYY DVOR, WHICH IS ALSO AN HISTORIC BUILDING LIKE MOSCOW'S GUM.

8. WE WOULD, OF COURSE, BE PLEASED TO ARRANGE A SEPARATE PROGRAM FOR ANY MEMBER OF MRS. MONDALE'S PARTY WHO MAY HAVE SEEN LENINGRAD BEFORE AND HAVE SPECIAL INTERESTS.

9. APPRECIATE GUIDANCE ASAP, PARTICULARLY REGARDING LUNCHEON PREFERENCE.BUCHANAN

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